

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018500

43

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 SAM-01 IOE-00 /100 R

DRAFTED BY IO:DRTOUSSAINT

APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS

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P 240313Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018500

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, FR, SF

SUBJECT: SC DEBATE RE NAMIBIA: FRENCH VIEWS.

REF: STATE 238452

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS JANUARY 23, FRENCH MINISTER DE LA GORCE RAISED QUESTION OF UPCOMING SC DEBATE ON NAMIBIA. REFERRING TO WHAT HE CALLED VERY GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FRENCH MISSION IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN GIVEN BY PARIS, DE LA GORCE SAID PARIS REMAINS VERY CONCERNED BY AND OPPOSED TO RESOLUTION WHICH CONTAINS ANY CHAPTER 7 LANGUAGE OR PROVISIONS. IN DESIRE TO AVOID SUCH RESOLUTION, AND THUS POSSIBLE VETO, HE SAID PARIS IS INTERESTED WHETHER RESOLUTION MIGHT BE FORMULATED IN MANNER WHICH, WHILE REMAINING ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICANS, WOULD USE LANGUAGE STEMMING FROM CHAPTER 6 (HE OFFERED NO SPECIFICS).

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PAGE 02 STATE 018500

2. LEWIS SAID OUR POSITION IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED, THOUGH IT IS CLEAR WE TOO WILL REMAIN OPPOSED TO CHAPTER 7 LANGUAGE. LEWIS RECALLED US-UK-FRENCH AGREEMENT OF LAST OCTOBER TO EXERCISE TRIPLE VETO IF SC IS AGAIN FACED WITH RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OF SC MEETING IN JUNE 1975; HE SAID WE ASSUME THIS AGREEMENT APPLIES TO UPCOMING DEBATE ON NAMIBIA. DE LA GORCE SAID IT WOULD APPLY BUT ADDED THAT FRENCH HAD PLACED CONDITION ON AGREEMENT FROM VERY BEGINNING, CONDITION WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN MADE CLEAR TO SOUTH

AFRICANS; NAMELY: FRANCE WOULD BE PREPARED TO USE VETO AGAIN ONLY IF THERE WERE SOME MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA POSITION IN MEANTIME. FYI AS ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE IN PARA 1 REFTEL A, DE LA GORCE ASSURED FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM OCTOBER 6 THAT FRANCE WOULD CONTINUE TO VETO SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH THE END OF 1975, WHEN THE US, UK AND FRANCE WOULD ONCE AGAIN HAVE TO ASSESS THEIR POSITION IN SC, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN SAG POLICY. END FYI

3. DE LA GORCE HAD APPARENTLY NOT CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY THAT NAMIBIA DEBATE MIGHT INCLUDE LARGE DOSES OF ANGOLA. AFTER LEWIS NOTED THIS POSSIBILITY, DE LA GORCE SAID THAT ANY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICA INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA WITHOUT CONDEMNATION OF CUBA AND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAMIBIA, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS, UNSC RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE018500
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DRTOUSSAINT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0520
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760124/aaaaauyj.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 238452
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SC DEBATE RE NAMIBIA: FRENCH VIEWS.
TAGS: PFOR, FR, SF, UN, (DE LA GORCE)
To: USUN NEW YORK MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006